

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /057 W

----- 068451

R 100040Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1946

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 8146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TW, JA, PFOR

SUBJECT: ROC REACTION TO JAPANESE ELECTIONS

1. THE GENERAL FEELING HERE IS THAT THE DECEMBER 5
JAPANESE ELECTIONS WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON
ROC/JAPANESE RELATIONS.

2. NEW OF THE JAPANESE ELECTIONS WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN
THE LOCAL PRESS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE PUBLIC
GAVE IT ONLY A PASSING GLANCE. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS
DEVOTED LARGELY TO EXPLAINING THE INTRICACIES OF JAPANESE
POLITICS, AND RARELY VENTURED TO SPECULATE WHAT THE
ELECTION RESULTS MIGHT MEAN FOR THE ROC. EVEN THEN,
COMMENT WAS IN THE FORM OF VAGUE WORRY OVER A POSSIBLE
INCREASE IN LEFTIST INFLUENCES SHOULD THE LDP WEAKEN
FURTHER.

3. INFORMED GOVERNMENT SOURCES AND LOCAL JAPANESE
EXPRESSED SLIGHTLY MORE INTEREST IN THE ELECTIONS THAN
THE PUBLIC, BUT SHARED THE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT NO
IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES WOULD RESULT EVEN IN THE LIKELY EVENT THAT
FUKUDA SUCCEEDED MIKI AS PRIME MINISTER. PRIVATE
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FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS EXPRESSED TO THE EMBASSY INDICATED

THE GROG IS SATISFIED WITH THEIR ANALYSIS THAT MOST DIETMEN FRIENDLY TO THE ROC WERE REELECTED AND THAT THESE OCCUPY ROUGHLY HALF OF THE LDP SEATS. THE TAIPEI OFFICE OF THE GROG'S EAST ASIA RELATIONS ASSOCIATION WAS PLEASED WITH WHAT IT SAW AS A DECLINE IN COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE. IN A RECENT DESPATCH TO TOKYO, THE LOCAL JAPAN INTERCHANGE ASSOCIATION REPORTED THAT GROG OFFICIALS FORESEE NO CHANGE IN ROC/JAPAN OR JAPAN/US RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE ELCTIONS. LOCAL JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN MAINTAIN THEIR "BUSINESS AS USUAL" ATTITUDE.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CASUAL, PASSIVE INTEREST HERE IN THE JAPANESE ELECTIONS AND THE INTENSE, ACTIVSWINTEREST IN THE PROPOSED NOMINATION OF CYRUS VANCE AS PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S SECRETARY OF STATE. WE BELIEVE THIS REFLECTS THE WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION HERE THAT WHILE JAPANESE CHINA POLICY IS SET AND UNLIKELY TO CHANGE, AMERICAN CHINA POLICY HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY DETERMINED AND IS STILL OPEN TO INFLUENCES FAVORABLE TO THE GROG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI08146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0226
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761252/aaaabsuw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC REACTION TO JAPANESE ELECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006